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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

pplicant:

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Serial No.:

10/602,522

Filed:

06/24/2003

For:

Lifting Tool for Surgical Retractors

Art Unit:

3733

Examiner:

Comstock

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This communication is in response to a first office action with mail date of Feb. 8, 2006, in which the Examiner has rejected claim 1 under Section 112, has rejected claims 1-6, 8, 12 and 13 under Section 102(b) as anticipated by Chaux '552, has rejected claims 1, 3 and 12 under Section 102(b) as anticipated by Koros et al. '382, has rejected claims 7 and 11 under Section 103(a) as obvious over Koros et al. '382, and has rejected claim 15 under Section 103(a) as obvious over Koros et al. '382 in view of Gauthier '093.

The Examiner indicates that claims 9, 10 and 14 are allowable if properly rewritten.

The Examiner indicates that claim 16 is allowed.

Please amend the application as follows:

The undersigned certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below.

Date

Thomas C. Saitta